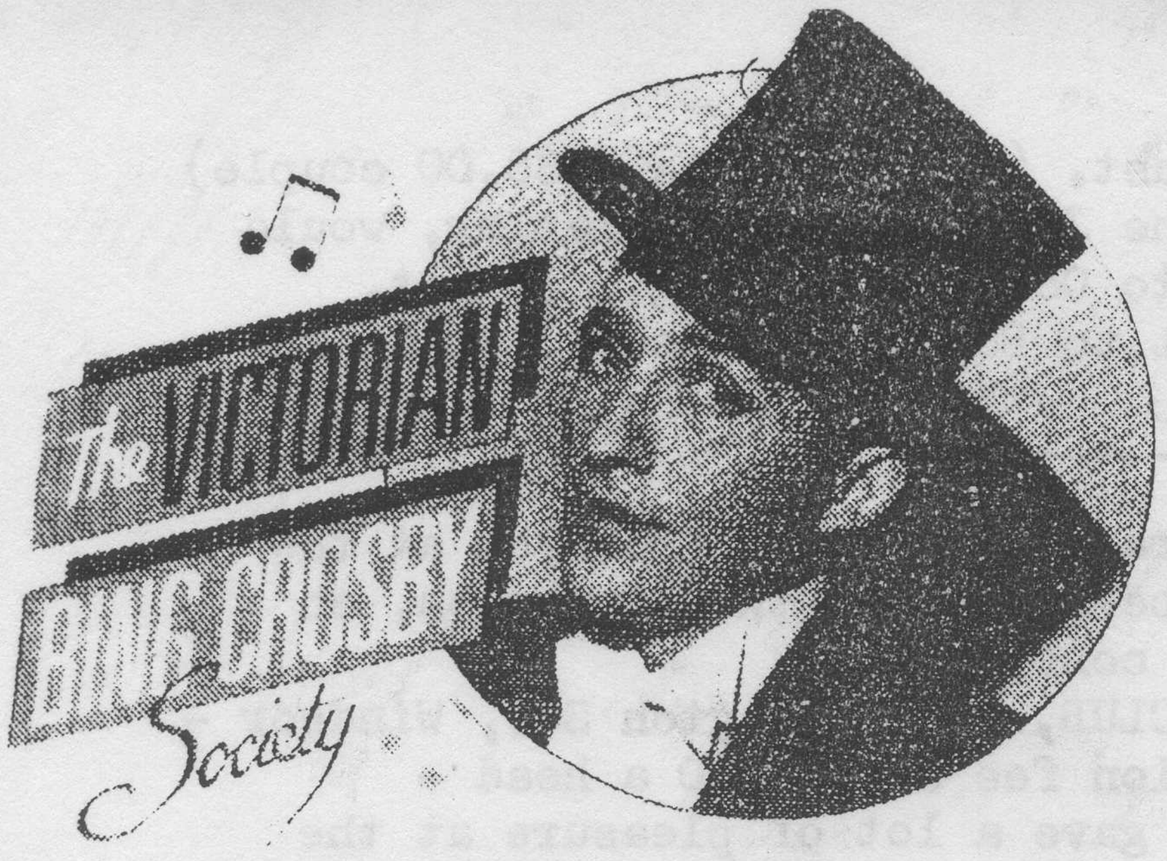

Secretary: R.J.Neate
22 Pakenham St.
BLACKBURN, 3130

Treasurer: K.Dorman,
32 Raleigh St.,
BLACKBURN, 3130

NEWSLETTER: SEPTEMBER, 1994

Monday, October 10th., brings our next Film Night, with a return to the early "vintage" Crosby as part of the following programme:-

"THE STARMAKER" Paramount 1939
Loosely based on the career of Gus Edwards, an unsuccessful songwriter and small-time dancer who became a discoverer of juvenile talent and producer of hugely-successful children's revues in the early part of the century. Among the names brought to prominence in his shows were George Jessel, Eddie Cantor, Walter Winchell, Georgie Rice and Lila Lee. With Bing in the cast were LOUISE CAMPBELL, RICHARD DENNING, FRANK FAYLEN, NED SPARKS - and as one of the "Singing Newsboys," DARYL HICKMAN, later to become television's "Dobie Gillis." A feast of great songs, many of them penned by Edwards, includes -

IF I WAS A MILLIONAIRE
GO FLY A KITE
SUNBONNET SUE
IN MY MERRY OLDSMOBILE
AN APPLE FOR THE TEACHER
STILL THE BLUEBIRD SINGS
JIMMY VALENTINE
A MAN AND HIS DREAM
I WONDER WHO'S KISSING HER NOW
DARKTOWN STRUTTERS' BALL
SCHOOLDAYS

..plus, sung by Linda Ware at Carnegie Hall, with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra - WALTZ OF THE FLOWERS.

"JITTERBUGS" - 20th.Century Fox 1943
Laurel and Hardy at the top of their form in a production on which Fox spent much more money than normal, as they were introducing Vivian Blaine, whom the studio hoped would become the new Betty Grable. She debuts with three songs sung in a riverboat nightclub, in a story which has Stan and Ollie trying to thwart con-men cheating Blaine of her family fortune. Also featured are Douglas Fowley and Lee Patrick - and a highlight is Stan Laurel in "drag" in a very funny "bit."

ADDED ATTRACTION - a 15-minute short featuring an actual Gus Edwards "KIDDIE REVUE" from approx.1930.

START TIME - 7.15 P.M. - USUAL VENUE - "THE GRIERSON THEATRE" (Access via back entrance, which is at the rear of the Grierson's private car park - available to VBCS patrons - off Treasury Place, City.)

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society will also be a feature of the October 10 get-together. All positions on the Committee have been declared vacant and if anyone would like to become more closely involved in the on-going activities of the Society, nominations will be welcomed.

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A reminder too about Membership Fees, due August. ($6.00 Single - $8.00 couple) If you still have the application form from the July/August Newsletter, would you please complete it and bring with monies to October Meeting. If not, give details etc. to Keith Dorman. (or post it to Bob Neate please)

DINNER/DANCE NOV.12: We also need to extract your money from you at the October Meeting, if you and friends etc.will be attending this function, so that numbers can be finalised and the booking confirmed.
It should be a great night at the MUSICIANS' CLUB, 65 Wellington St., Windsor - with three-course meal included in the admission fee of $15.00 a head - and entertainment provided by the group which gave a lot of pleasure at the June Film Night - "Australia's Bing Crosby," DANNY KEATING - LESLEY HETHERINGTON - and BILL WOOLMER. (*Coffee/Tea are included in the above price, but drinks from the bar will be an extra charge)
Ron Were will be located at a special table at the Grierson on October 10 to accept your bookings.

On your behalf, the Committee will take out membership of the INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE, with magazines and other material to be channelled to us through the Circle's Sydney representative, David Currington.

As previously reported, we have also joined the BINGTHINGS SOCIETY, and among items reported in their most recent "Bing Talks" magazine are notes that:-
PHIL HARRIS recently celebrated his 90th.birthday in San Francisco, and spoke at length of his long, close friendship with Bing
.. KATHRYN CROSBY is obviously still active in the acting scene -signed to appear in "The Seagull" in Russia - in Russian!
... and PGA boss Deane Beman, leaving after 20 years, fell foul of the Crosbys when he suggested the Bing Crosby Pro-Am Tournament be commercialised. Kathryn Crosby refused and moved the Crosby event to Winston-Salem, N.C. The California tournament will now be the AT & T, Pebble Beach.

There were also reports that the video version of "BING CROSBY - HIS LEGENDARY YEARS 1931-1957" (MCA/Universal) is available, together with a rash of new Crosby film releases - and that new CD's include
"BING CROSBY - GREATEST HITS" (40 Tracks) featuring original recordings from 1934 to 1943 (EMP983002 - Double CD)
"CLASSIC CROSBY - 1931-1938 - 18 Tracks (ABC Records 838-985-2)
"BING CROSBY 1927-1934" -16 Tracks - (ABC Records 836-172-2)

Australian availability is not certain - but persistence in chasing retailers for them could bring results.

OCTOBER is a month which figures prominently in Crosby history. Bing's voice was first etched into the wax of a gramophone record on October 10th, 1926 (the song - "I've Got the Girl," with Al Rinker and the Don Clark Los Angeles Biltmore Hotel Orchestra) - and of course almost exactly 51 years later, on October 14th., 1977 - Bing's death was reported from Madrid.
More than enough reason for committee member and regular 3CR presenter BILL BENNETT to present a one-hour "Tribute to Bing," on Community Radio, 855 on the AM dial, from nine till ten o'clock on the night of October 16th. On this occasion Bill, whose regular nostalgia programme on 3CR is a very popular one, will be joined by Club Secretary Bob Neate -and you can look forward to hearing some of your Crosby favourites from right across his career.

The "Popular Singers" series of stamps has been issued in the U.S. - and a sheet of 20 - four each of Bing, Ethel Waters, Al Jolson, Nat "King" Cole and Ethel

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Merman - can be obtained for US$6.00 - from Bob Lundberg of the "Bingthings Soc.," 4084 Cherry Tree Place, Lake Havasu City, ARIZONA 86403-4446 U.S.A.

On September 1st., the U.S.Postal Service and the Spokane Post Office, in conjunction with Gonzaga University, held a dedication ceremony for the series, with special emphasis on the Bing Crosby Stamp, in front of the Crosby Student Center on the Gonzaga Campus. This was followed by a special pictorial cancellation of the stamps, and a tour of the Crosby Collection.

APOLOGY: In our last Newsletter, committee member TED PARADISSIS somehow acquired the surname "Parnassus." Apologies for the "glitch," Ted.

Finally, if anyone knows of members, or former members, who are in ill-health, would you please advise Bob Neate, and efforts will be made to help them share in Crosby information and activities etc.